

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 046672
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 AID-05 IGA-02 /065 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:PG:CSA
APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB
NEA-AEGRIFFIN
S/S:MR. SHANKLE

-----030046 122918 /14

O P 030022Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, TS, US

SUBJECT: HABIB-HEDDA MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 1977

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR HEDDA, UNDER SECRETARY HABIB PROPOSED DEFERRING JOINT COMMISSION MEETING UNTIL AUTUMN. HE NOTED THAT AUTUMN TIMING WAS BETTER SUITED TO OUR BUDGET CYCLE, AND MEETING THIS SPRING WOULD ONLY BE A REPETITION OF LAST FALL'S DISCUSSION ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS. HABIB SPOKE OF POSSIBLY ARRANGING A BRIEF VISIT TO TUNISIA, IN THE COURSE OF A TRIP TO NORTH AFRICA WHICH HE MAY BE TAKING LATER IN THE SPRING. HEDDA WELCOMED THIS POSSIBILITY. CONVERSATION ALSO COVERED RESULTS OF SECRETARY VANCE'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP, POSSIBLE VISIT TO US BY PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA, US AID TO TUNISIA, AND RELATIONS WITH LIBYA.

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2. NOUIRA VISIT: AFTER BRIEFING HEDDA ON SECRETARY'S TRIP, HABIB TOLD HEDDA THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING AN INVITATION TO PM NOUIRA, BUT COULD NOT BE CERTAIN WHEN WE WOULD HAVE A GREEN LIGHT TO SEND IT, BECAUSE OF THE MANY PRESSING REQUESTS FOR EARLY STAFF MEETINGS NOW BEING SORTED OUT BY THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF.

3. US AID TO TUNISIA: HABIB REGRETFULLY INFORMED HEDDA THAT TUNISIA DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA FOR US SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, WHICH IS DESIGNED FOR COUNTRIES IN CRISIS SITUATIONS, WHERE THE DEMANDS ARE GREAT, AND IN MOST CASES WHERE THE PER CAPITA INCOME IS VERY LOW. HEDDA ACKNOWLEDGED THIS DECISION, BUT EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT US AID CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION FOR FY 1978 DID NOT SHOW INCREASE IN REGULAR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE LEVELS OVER CURRENT ESTIMATES FOR FY 1977 AID. HABIB PROMISED TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH AID.

4. LIBYA: REPLYING TO QUESTION BY HEDDA, HABIB SAID WE DO NOT SEE NEED FOR CONCILIATORY GESTURE TOWARDS LIBYA, IN VIEW OF QADHAFI'S BEHAVIOR TOWARD EGYPT, SUDAN, AND TUNISIA, AND HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH IDI AMIN. HEDDA INQUIRED ABOUT REPORTS OF LIBYAN ACQUISITION OF MIG-25'S AND SOVIET SUBMARINES, AND HABIB ASKED NEA TO GET AN INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON THIS MATTER.

5. MEMCON FOLLOWS BY POUCH.
VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON
APPROVED BY: NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL
-----031930Z 007770 /50

O 031743Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046672

FOL TEL SENT ACTION TUNIS INFO RABAT TRIPOLI FROM SECSTATE
DTD 03 MAR 1977 QTE

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5. MEMCON FOLLOWS BY POUCH. VANCE UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HABIB-HEDDA MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 1977
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, US, TS
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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